Attorney Docket No.: PB60476USw

## **Amendments To The Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a chloropurine compound of formula (I)

(VII)

or a derivative thereof, which comprises ring closure of  $\frac{1}{2}$  compound of formula (VII) or a derivative thereof

in the presence of catalytic acid and at least one equivalent of a formate derivative.

- 2. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the acid is sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, or an alkyl or arylsulfonic acid.
- 3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 0.05 to 0.1 equivalents by mole based on the an amount of the compound of formula (VII).
- 4. (Currently Amended) A process according to any one of the preceding claims claim 1 wherein the formate derivative is triethylorthoformate.

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5. (Currently Amended) A process according any one of the preceding claims claim 1 wherein the formate derivative is present in an amount of 1 to 1.5 equivalents by mole based on the amount of the compound of formula (VII).

6. (Currently Amended) A process according to any one of the preceding claims claim 1 wherein the compound of formula (VII) or a derivative thereof is prepared by condensing an amino alcohol of formula (IV) or a derivative thereof

with a compound of formula (VIII) or a derivative thereof

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & & & \\ & & & \\ N & & & \\ & & & \\ H_2N & & & \\ & & & \\ N & & \\ & & \\ CI & & \\ & &$$

in the presence of a base.

- 7. (Original) A process according to claim 6 wherein the condensation reaction is carried out in n-butanol in the presence of sodium bicarbonate.
- 8. (Original) A process according to claim 6 wherein the condensation reaction is carried out in n-butanol in the presence of anhydrous potassium carbonate.
- 9. (Currently Amended) A process according to any one of the preceding claims claim 1 wherein the chloropurine compound of formula (I) or derivative thereof prepared by the ring closure reaction is converted *in situ* to abacavir or a derivative thereof.
- 10. (Cancelled)